


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy			
BLS Optional Skills Provider Approval/Requirements			
	Effective: 06/01/2024	Next Review: 01/2027	477
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: John Poland – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

PURPOSE:

To establish the BLS optional skills provider approval process and ongoing requirements of an S-SV EMS approved BLS optional skills provider.

AUTHORITY:

- A. HSC, Division 2.5.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Division 9, Chapters 1.5 and 2.

POLICY:

- A. An EMS prehospital service provider desiring to utilize any of the BLS optional skills listed in this policy must be approved by S-SV EMS, and continually meet all requirements set forth by state law/regulations and S-SV EMS policies related to the utilization of such skills. BLS optional skills provider approval may be revoked or suspended for failure to comply with the requirements of this policy.
- B. PSFA, EMR or EMT personnel must be functioning under the oversight of an S-SV EMS approved BLS optional skills provider in order to utilize any of the BLS optional skills listed in this policy.
- C. The following BLS optional skills may be authorized by S-SV EMS for use by Public Safety First Aid (PSFA) personnel in accordance with applicable S-SV EMS policies and treatment protocols:
 - 1. Administration of atropine and pralidoxime chloride by auto-injector.
 - 2. Administration of epinephrine by auto-injector.
 - 3. Administration of intranasal (IN) naloxone.
 - 4. Administration of supplemental oxygen.
 - 5. Utilization of oropharyngeal airways (OPAs) and nasopharyngeal airways (NPAs).

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- A. The following BLS optional skills may be authorized by S-SV EMS for use by Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) personnel in accordance with applicable S-SV EMS policies and treatment protocols:
1. Administration of atropine and pralidoxime chloride by auto-injector.
 2. Administration of epinephrine by auto-injector.
 3. Administration of intranasal (IN) naloxone.
- B. The following BLS optional skills may be authorized by S-SV EMS for use by Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) personnel in accordance with applicable S-SV EMS policies and treatment protocols:
1. Administration of atropine and pralidoxime chloride by auto-injector.
 2. Administration of epinephrine by auto-injector or intramuscular (IM) injection.
 3. Administration of intranasal (IN) naloxone.
 4. Utilization of a size 3, 4, or 5 i-gel advanced airway device.
- D. BLS Optional Skills Provider Approval Process:
1. An EMS prehospital service provider desiring to utilize any of the BLS optional skills listed in this policy shall submit a written request to S-SV EMS for approval to utilize such skills. The written request shall include the following:
 - A letter of intent to utilize the BLS optional skills, expressing willingness to abide by all S-SV EMS policies, procedures, and requirements.
 - A listing of BLS optional skills requesting authorization to utilize and level of personnel (PSFA, EMR and/or EMT) that will be utilizing the optional skills.
 - A description of the geographic area within which the BLS optional skills will be utilized (size, population, population distribution and any other unique characteristics associated with the area that may impact the program).
 - A description of the need for use of the BLS optional skills.
 - Name and credentials of the organization's proposed BLS optional skills principal instructor. The principal instructor shall be a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, paramedic, or Advanced EMT licensed/certified in California, or a physician licensed in another state immediately adjacent to the S-SV EMS region.
 - A description of the organization's procedures for collection and retention of BLS optional skills utilization medical records.
 - A description of the organization's quality improvement (QI) monitoring and oversight processes related to BLS optional skills utilization.
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2. Program approval or disapproval shall be made by S-SV EMS within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of all required documentation listed in this section.

E. Approved BLS Optional Skills Provider Requirements:

An S-SV EMS approved BLS optional skills provider shall continually comply with the following:

1. Initial and Ongoing Training Requirements:

- Provide initial BLS optional skills training/testing utilizing S-SV EMS approved or provided curriculum.
- Provide all necessary training equipment for initial and ongoing training.
- Utilize only S-SV EMS approved principal instructors to teach the required curriculum.
 - An EMT trained and authorized to utilize the BLS optional skills may assist in the training and demonstration of skills competency.
- Ensure that each authorized PSFA, EMR, or EMT individual demonstrates competency in the utilization of all approved optional skills, a minimum of once every twelve (12) months.
 - Personnel authorized to verify skills competency shall be a physician, registered nurse, physician assistant, paramedic, Advanced EMT, or appropriately trained EMT licensed/certified in California, or a physician licensed in another state immediately adjacent S-SV EMS Region.
- Maintain adequate documentation of initial and ongoing BLS optional skills training, including records of the required annual skills competency verification. Training records shall be maintained for a minimum of four (4) years and are subject to inspection by S-SV EMS representatives upon request.

2. Records/Data Collection Requirements:

- Ensure that a written (605-A, 605-B, or equivalent) or electronic patient care report is completed for each patient on whom a BLS optional skill is utilized.
- Provide a copy of the completed patient care report referenced above to S-SV EMS within seven (7) calendar days after utilization of any of the following BLS optional skills:
 - Administration of atropine and pralidoxime chloride by auto-injector.
 - Administration of epinephrine by auto-injector or IM injection.
 - Administration of IN naloxone.
 - Utilization of an i-gel advanced airway device.

3. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Requirements:

- Designate sufficient/qualified staff to ensure timely/competent review of all calls where a BLS optional skill is utilized. At a minimum, the review of these calls shall focus on the following:
 - Documentation accuracy.
 - Compliance with S-SV EMS policies and treatment protocols.
 - Identification of potential provider or system issues related to the utilization of BLS optional skills.
- Submit S-SV EMS required BLS optional skills utilization data as part of the EMS prehospital service provider's Emergency Medical Services Quality Improvement Program (EMSQIP) annual report.

4. Other Program Requirements:

- Notify S-SV EMS of any changes related to the provider's BLS optional skills program within 30 calendar days.
- Notify S-SV EMS, by the next business day, of any incident involving a potential policy/protocol violation or resulting in potential patient harm from the use of a BLS optional skill.